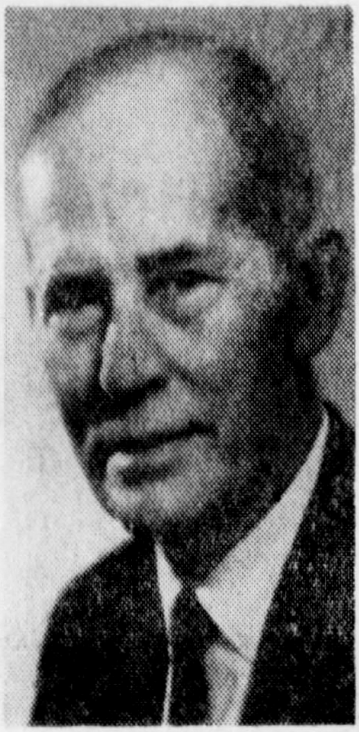
man had he been black.

'Gentle And Dear Friend'—

By FLOY BEATTY

Donald Davidson who died on April 25th wore many hats: he was a distinguished poet, author of nearly a dozen books, teacher at Vanderbilt for 44 years, historian, essayist, critic, a member of both the Fuguitives and Agrarians; but he was also literary editor of the TENNESSEAN book page for nearly seven years. Under his editorship, to quote Dr. Tyree Fain in his book about these years, "The Spyglass, Views and Reviews,



Donald Davidson
. . . most prestigious editor

1924-1930, by Donald Davidson" (Vanderbilt University Press, 1963), it was said to be "the best literary page ever published in the South. Probably of greater significance is its close connection with the Southern literary renascence."

To this Book Page Mr. Davidson brought as contributors all but five of the 16 Fugitive poets: John Crowe Ransom, Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, Merrill Moore, Laura Riding, Jesse Wills, Alec B. Stevenson, Walter Clyde Curry, Stanley Johnson, Sidney Mttron Hirsch, James Frank, William Yandell Elliott, William Frierson, Ridley Wills, and Alfred Starr; all but one of the 12 Agrarians: John Crowe Ransom, (Davidson), Tate, Warren, Lytle, Stark Young, John Gould Fletcher, Frank Owsley, Lyle Lanier, Clarence Nixon, John Donald Wade, and Henry B. Kline.

In addition, there were such reviewers as Dr. Edwin Mims, Cleanth Brooks, Stanley Horn, Edd Winfield Parks, Dorothy Bethurum, Puryear Mims Maxwell Benson, William T. Bandy, Tyree Fain, Mason Houghland, Herbert Sanborn, to name only a few.

Truly it was a time of renascence, and such a time may not come again to our region. And the hat that might have pleased Mr. Davidson most would have been that of "gentle and dear friend." To our most prestigious editor, vale.

For a full-length historical treatment of the Fugitives, the reader is referred to Louise Cowan's "The Fugitive Group," L.S.U. Press, 1959, which was reissued in soft cover this month. A complete listing of Mr. Davidson's work (through 1964) may be found in "Donald Davidson, An Essay and a Bibliography" by Thomas Daniel Young and M. Thomas Inge, published by the Vanderbilt Press in 1965.